





Grits cry foul over election

Liberals give auditor general letter calling for investigation into March 3 voting

JEFF CUMMINGS jeff.cummings@metronews.ca

Alberta's Liberals believe a confusing mess at a number of polling stations across the province during the March 3 election prevented hundreds to thousands of people from voting.

And now the Grits want the province's auditor general to do

something about it.

"We need the auditor general to get to the bottom of this," said Alberta Liberal Leader Kevin Taft today during a news conference.

"What we are seeing is a huge number taff of symptoms that affected thousands of Albertans. We need the auditor general to tell us exactly what the problem is and

how it will be fixed."

The Liberals gave Auditor General Fred Dunn a letter calling for an investigation today, along with a thick binder containing more than 80 emails, letters and other submissions from people complaining about how the election was mismanaged.

how the election was mismanaged. The submissions included reports of voters' lists being incomplete that caused long line-ups while voters were being sworn in, claimed Taft.

Hundreds of frustrated people

left the polling station without ever voting, he said, in an election that only saw 41.4 per cent of eligible Alberta voters coming out to cast a ballot.

Taft also noted polling clerks and staff at the stations were poorly trained and some were not aware of election rules and laws during the "worst election" he has ever seen.

When asked by reporters yesterday in Calgary, Premier Ed Stelmach didn't seem to be aware of Taft's request for an investigation before saying the Grit leader was free "to make the ask" and the government would wait for the auditor general to "carry out the investigation."

Stelmach has said after the election, however, that he is aware of several problems at polling stations and the government's election committee would meet with the chief electoral officer about some of those issues.

-WITH FILES FROM NEIL MACKINNON

Sexual assault spurs warning

SUSPECT Calgarians are being asked for their help but also warned to exercise caution after a 22-year-old woman was sexually assaulted downtown at 6:30 a.m. Saturday.

While walking southbound on the east side of 1 Street and 9 Avenue SW, the woman was grabbed from behind and sexually assaulted, but kicked and screamed until her offender ran off.

The suspect is described as a mid-20s, 180-pound Aboriginal man about 5'7", and was clean shaven with chin-length straight-black hair and a stocky build. He was wearing a baseball cap, a white zip-up hoodie with dark symbols throughout, darkblue baggy jeans and running shoes.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 403-266-1234 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

METRO CALGARY

Stampede inside

Music schedule, results, more ...

Sports page 16

Bertuzzi signs with Flames

Paws for thought Strays need loving homes



Oilsands need image makeover

NEIL MACKINNON
pail mackinnon@metronews.ca



Alberta's dirty oilsands image might "settle down" but talk of a "compromise" has yet to enter the picture.

Premier Ed Stelmach met American ambassador David Wilkins in Calgary on Monday, stressing a need to "share information" with his cross-border counterparts while strengthening relationships with western governors.

The plan, Stelmach said, is to "work towards one common policy" and put some "facts on the table, and some common sense."

"We're working with the ambassador to bring more people to Alberta just to tell them what we are doing around greenhouse gas emissions, land use framework, water for life strategy and also talk about carbon capture," said Stelmach. Yet Stelmach's not about to com-

Yet Stelmach's not about to compromise on Alberta's environmental stance under U.S. pressure.

"Where are we going to compromise to," Stelmach said. "(The Americans) don't have anything, they're talking, but nobody has put anything in place as a target and it's quite mixed in terms of how to approach green house gas emissions."









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Slow mosey to Stampede

Stampede goers may have experienced a brief disruption in their commute to the park yesterday. A lane-closure had traffic moving slightly slower on 9 Avenue SE between Centre and 1 Street as crews repaired damages to the Plus 15 pedestrian overpass. METRO CALGARY



"Calgary's given me an opportunity to come in and to get some ice time and play. I still think that I can get back up there and contribute."

Winger Todd Bertuzzi on his recent signing with the Calgary Flames



Cityty

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Stampede sees drop in attendance

But organizers unfazed

ALICIA FOX for Metro Calgary

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Though advertised as "bigger and better," Stampede attendance numbers are actually down from last year.

But Doug Fraser with the Calgary Stampede says he isn't too concerned about

the 8,500 person drop.
"We're probably a little bit behind compared to last year, but we've still got six days to go," said Fraser, noting that they've already seen better numbers since Sunday's attendance was up 9,000 from 2007.

'I want to stress that while attendance is an important figure, the real important thing that we're trying to determine is the experience," he said. "And if the experience is great for our visitors then the attendance will take care of itself."

The initial hit was sneaka-peek day, down 10,000 visitors, which Fraser attributes to gate prices rising back to normal from last year's fundraising ef-

"The public really came down on Thursday night

"If the experience is great ... the attendance will take care of itself."

Doug Fraser, organizer

(last year) because of the Tough Enough to Wear Pink campaign," he said.

Dr. J. R. Brent Ritchie, chair of the World Tourism Education and Research Centre at the University of Calgary said that while gas prices may be having an effect on attendance, he speculates that consumer confidence and even possible job cutbacks in the east may also affect vacation decisions this year.

"I think there's a fear," said Ritchie.

"People ... may not want to dip into that pot of money that they use for vacations."

But Fraser does say that 75 per cent of visitors are "rubber tire traffic," coming from a day's drive away, and that though American visitors are down, Australian and United Kingdom visitors are

News in brief

HORSES Though the occasional horse has been sighted in past years, bylaw officers have reported about a dozen people riding the animals downtown. Horses are only permitted if they have a permit to ride in a

parade; otherwise they're to remain in the stables. Other disturbances have been far less unique, including Calgarians having speakers up too high or not bothering to find a proper pot to go in. METRO CALGARY



Premier Ed Stelmach chats it up with hungry guests at the annual Premier's Stampede breakfast held outside the McDougall Centre yesterday. The meal went on without incident.

No pie at premier's breakfast

NEIL MACKINNON non@metronews.ca

Ed Stelmach may have set a new Stampede breakfast precedent.

As Alberta's premier flipped flapjacks Monday morning for more than 3,000 people, he managed to flow through his stint at the griddle and amongst the crowd for less than an hour without incident.

A small contingent of protestors picketed briefly from the sidelines, a premier's breakfast mainstay, but they were contained by a heavy police presence, who flanked the Mc-Dougall Centre feedlot and thickly dispersed throughout the crowd.

Colleen Hebert, at her first premier's breakfast and second of the Stamgood but she was surprised there wasn't more of a fuss, even though she didn't see Stelmach at all.

"He just didn't want to get pied," added Kristen Schultz.

It was Stelmach's second Stampede breakfast as pre-

Nearly 4,000 pancakes and 8,000 sausages were served.

'It's like losing a family member'

AFGHANISTAN A medic, recently engaged to his fiancée, was killed when a roadside bomb went off on a routine patrol Sunday, marking the 87th Canadian soldier killed in the Afghanistan mission.

Williams

Pte. Colin Wilmot, a medic serving with the Health Services Support Unit. was killed instantly he when

the

came across Pte. Colin bomb Williams and despite Wilmot

attempts to revive him he was pronounced dead at hospital.

Lt-Col. Christopher Linford, Commanding Officer of 1 Field Ambulance, said the 24-year-old medic just got engaged in the past month, leaving fiancée Laura Lee English to grieve before the inevitable media storm

'She's in shock and terribly upset at the loss of her fiancé," said Linford about English.

She is suffering today. Wilmot, said to be an enthusiastic member of the Armed Forces, was also at the top of his class, and was a recipient of the Commandant's Shield awarded to the solider deemed to be the top candidate during his trade course.

Linford says Wilmot was a popular individual of the regiment and that it was a trying time for the sol-

"We're a family and it's like losing a family member," said Linford.

ANDREW COWIE/FOR METRO CANADA

City to host oilsands exhibition

JULY 15-17 For the second year, Calgary will play host to the Oilsands and Heavy Oil Technologies Conference and Exhibition from July 15 to 17 down at the Telus Convention Centre.

Last year, the show drew over 880 oilsands executives and senior personnel, and hosted over 50 exhibitors.

The event will feature speakers addressing issues such as a sustainable future, technologies associated with the industry and potential solutions for the problems facing producers.

The closing session will include a live webcast with members of the advisory board and conference attendees who will chat with an internet audience regarding socioeconomic and environmental questions.

METRO CALGARY

\$1,000

The fine faced by David Mackow, 29, of Calgary, after pleading guilty to charges stemming from a October 2007 incident where the accused shone a laser pointer into the cockpit of an Air Canada flight just prior to its Calgary landing. Mackow must also give up his laser pointer.

METRO CALGARY

Junior reporters gain media savvy

Youths win chance to interview Stampede celebrities

ALICIA FOX for Metro Calgary

Dressed for success, or at least for Stampede, two young Calgarians will have a taste of media life tomorrow.

Through the second annual BMO Junior Reporter's Contest, Charlotte Hardy, 11, and John Richardson, 12, won not only free admission, but the rights to meet Stampede celebrities and interview them after being decked out at Lammle's along with roping in other great prizes.

Being Kids Day tomorrow, the two young reporters will be interviewing the kids at the events and will be left to ask their own questions.

Charlotte Hardy, going into the seventh grade at St. Margaret, said she was "freaking out" when she discovered she was chosen, adding her friends were "kinda jealous but they were all excited for me."

Judy Rizzuto, in charge of Kids Day down at the park, said the two were picked out of about 35 en"(Charlotte) dressed the part, she was really bubbly and vibrant. Just her presentation of it, you could tell she liked the Stampede and wanted to do this."

Judy Rizzuto, in charge of Kids Day

tries, tripled from last year, and they were required to say why they wanted to do it and record themselves saying a predetermined blurb about the Stampede.

"(Charlotte) dressed the part, she was really bubbly and vibrant." Rizzuto said. "Just her presentation of it, you could tell she liked the Stampede and wanted to do this."

Charlotte said she was most looking forward to "finding more things out about the Stampede" and talking to people, but admits she's a bit nervous about approaching people she's never met before.



Charlotte Hardy, 11, one of two winners of the BMO Junior Reporter's Contest will be out tomorrow at Stampede Park and she might just interview you.

Strays strain animal services

NEIL MACKINNON

Cowtown has gone to the

A recent spate of thunder-

A recent spate of thunderstorms may have sent Calgary's dog population scurrying for shelter, further aggravating a historically busy summer season, leaving Animal and Bylaw Services with a massive surplus of stray dogs in their care, said Bylaw's Bill Bruce.

"This is very unusually busy," said Bruce, noting their shelter on Portland Street SE is nearing its capacity, with 56 dogs in their care, 14 of which are currently available for adoption. "And, of course, Stampede revelry upsets the family pet quite often with the rush of people coming in and out."

While many of the dogs may be local, Bruce said there's a good chance some of the dogs are from out of town, just visiting the Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth. Monday he encouraged anyone in the city who is missing their pet to claim them.

ing their pet to claim them. In the instance of a missing family pet, Animal Services uploads photos to their webpage, www.calgary.ca/an imalservices, within 15 minutes of capture.

The shelter is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends.



Bylaw Boss Bill Bruce

News in brief

BUILDING PERMITS Calgary is bucking a province-wide drop in the value of building permits. The city posted a 16.4 per cent rise in value, to \$500 million for the month of May. The value of building permits in the province dropped 3.7 per cent to \$1.2 billion. Nationally, the value of building permits rose a modest 1.1 per cent, reaching \$6.62 billion.

Chorus croons for mealtime

ALICIA FOX for Metro Calgary

or Metro Calgary

Clad in matching denim shirts and white cowboy hats, the Stampede City Chorus gave folks down at Olympic Plaza a free show yesterday.

Just one of several acts

the crowds enjoyed while loading up on pancakewrapped bacon, the chorus belted out good ol' western tunes a-capella

"We start with a pitch pipe and go from there," said Kevin Roberston, director of the choir for the last six years. Present yesterday were 24 out of the 30 member group singing in four-part harmony, which Roberston said sounds great but might have been hard to hear because of such a large space.

The all-men's choir, around since 1955, meet every Wednesday down at

Scarboro United Church to practice. The choir also tosses up their repertoire, singing different themed songs depending on the event.

"It's bringing the joy of music," said Robertson. "They want to do this kind of thing just because they love music."





Health Agency seeks to calm salmonella scare

The Public Health Agency tried to alleviate fears yesterday over a contaminated foodstuff that was found to be behind a U.S. outbreak of salmonella. Four Canadians have fallen ill since returning from the U.S. and the Public Health office insists the foodstuff is not distributed here. METRO CANADA





B.C. RCMP officer facing charges

A B.C. RCMP officer will appear in court today to face charges of assault stemming from a Taser incident on Dec. 16. A second officer was attacked by an arrested suspect and was shocked in the resulting fight.

Canada seen as a barrier

Oxfam says Harper standing in way of world progress

Canada is being accused by humanitarian groups here of acting as a barrier to progress on such major issues as the world food shortage, climate change and aid to Africa.

Oxfam International, the charity and advocacy group, accused Stephen Harper's Conservative government of trying in the closed-door talks to weaken a major effort by G8 leaders meeting here to step up support for health programs in Africa.

Rather than a firm G8 re-commitment to spend \$60 billion over several years to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases in Africa, Canada is trying to ensure that the G8's final communiqué refers to these measures only as a recommendation, according to Oxfam spokesperson Max Lawson and other



Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife Laureen wave with kindergarten children after they attended the Canada-Japan Youth Environment Summit on the first day of the G8 Summit in

activists here.

The pledge was originally made at last year's summit in Germany.
"A number of countries

are trying to water down

that language...we're very concerned about the Canadians in particular," Lawson told reporters during the first day of this year's summit in northern Japan.

On climate Harper continues to say here that it is useless for G8 leaders to sign on to mandatory targets for reducing carbon emissions unless China, India and other emerging economies do likewise.

This position, shared by U.S. President George W. Bush, could have the affect of delaying coordinated international action to fight global warming because newly developed nations want the industrialized countries that created the bulk of greenhouse gas emissions to set an example in making sacrifices

"Basically, Canada is not playing a constructive role," said Dennis Howlett of Make Poverty History.

The summit is slated to turn its focus to Iran's nuclear ambitions today.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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G8 leaders eye more sanctions

African leaders pressured

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and other G8 leaders are poised to call for tougher sanctions against Zimbabwe after bluntly telling African leaders in Japan that they should move immediately to put an end to the "illegitimate" government of President Robert Mugabe.

The G8, expressed their outrage at a closed-door meeting with the leaders of South Africa, Senegal, Tanzania, Ghana and several other African coun-

Harper and other leaders made it clear that African countries should not tolerate a Mugabe government and that doing so might hurt the continent's



"The only area that we may differ is on the way forward."

Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete

ability to receive aid monev from industrialized na-

"The only area that we may differ is on the way forward. You see differently but for us in Africa we see differently, but I think again there is still room for us for discussions," said Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete, who is alhead of the African Union. Torstar news service

News in brief

EDMONTON Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion's carbon-tax plan got a friendly pass in the court of public opinion in Edmonton yesterday but about 400 people and the oil town's "who's who" of the local left wing showed up to question him on everything from renew-

able energy to electric cars.

IRAQ A Federal Court is expected to decide today if Iraq War resister Corey Glass will be sent back to the U.S. The former U.S. National Guardsman has asked that an expulsion order be set aside and he be allowed to remain in Toronto

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Forward

Truscott awarded compensation

Steven Truscott's 49-year legal nightmare is finally over thanks to a \$6.5 million compensation cheque from the Ontario government.

Attorney General Chris Bentley announced yesterday that Truscott, 63, would receive the payout from the province almost a half century after being convicted of a murder he did not commit.

In a joint statement from their home in Guelph, Truscott and his wife Mar-lene said "this is a bittersweet moment for us," and said his name was now



Attorney General Chris Bentley

cleared. "When we began this journey more than a decade ago, we thought only of exonerating Steven - the possibility of compensation never entered our minds," the couple

Stephen Trawarded \$6.5 million in compensation by Ontario.

Sentenced to hang in 1959 at age 14 for the sex killing of his 12-year-old school chum Lynne Harper, Truscott has spent most of his life fighting to clear his name. Last August, the Ontario Court of Appeal quashed his conviction and acquitted him, ruling it a "miscarriage of justice." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Khawaja's house becomes focus of Ottawa terror trial

MONEY Mohammad Momin Khawaja's Ottawa-area home was bristling with weapons, crates of ammunitions, electronics of all sorts, hundred dollar bills and books dedicated to terrorism, according to evidence presented at his trial yesterday.

Under brother Qasin's mattress was \$10,300 in \$100 bills. The 29-year-old Khawaja faces

charges, including allegedly building a detonator that was to be used in an Al Qaeda bomb plot in London that was foiled by Britain's MI5 domestic security service and resulted in five men convicted of the plot.

Kĥawaja, jailed in Ottawa since 2004, was the first Canadian charged under the seven-vear-old Anti-Terrorism Act.

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Visions



French skydiver, Michel Fournier, after his failed attempt to set a record jump from 40,000 metres says he will return to Saskatchewan on Sept. 7, to try again. METRO CANADA

Former Ottawa cop facing child pornography charges



A former Ottawa cop faces child pornography and child-luring charges in Ottawa and in the United States after the High-Tech Crime Section searched a city residence on a warrant

Ottawa Police obtained the warrant for the July 2 search of a home after receiving information from the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Pennsylvania. They seized computer equipment and firearms from the home.

questions remain

City police do not know when Maher will be released from custody by U.S. federal authorities and an extradition order may be needed to return him to Canada, where he is to answer to the charges laid here.

Paul Maher, 56, of Ottawa was arrested in New York in June 27 and Ottawa

police issued a warrant for his arrest here yesterday, said High Tech Crime SecThompson. Maher will be transferred to Pittsburgh. Pa., where a criminal complaint was filed by the district attorney's office.

Ottawa police have charged Maher with distrihave bution of child pornography and child luring, said Thompson. He faces simi-

lar charges in the U.S., where he is also charged with firearm offences, including unsafe storage and possession of prohibited weapons.

A former Ottawa Police officer, Maher was hired in 1974 and resigned in 1988 in good standing, Thompson said.

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Pushing the boundaries on banks

QUÉBEC A group of Israeli-Canadians seeks to expand the boundaries of the legal fight against terrorist financing by suing a Lebanese bank in Quebec Superior Court.

The four plaintiffs, who claim they suffered injuries in the 2006 conflict pitting Israel against miliof Lebanon-based Hezbollah, allege that the Lebanese Canadian Bank, with offices in Montreal, knowingly allowed two Hezbollah-linked charities to

bill

Parliament is to consider a bill next fall to expand the scope of Canadian civil law and lift any immunity enjoyed by banks with ties to designated terrorist entities. It is a Tory promoted bill and the Liberals have said they would likely support it.

cash to the Islamic group Canada and the United States list as terrorist entities.

The allegations, not yet proven in court, strike the heart of what the plaintiffs believe is an orchestrated North American

campaign to raise funds for Iranbacked Hezbollah, the "Party of God," that controls much of southern Lebanon.

"Our hope is basically to wake up all countries that do not support terror to the fact that we must be more vigilant in watching these kinds of banking transactions," said Montreal lawyer Jeffrey Boro, who filed the civil suit in Quebec Superior Court last Fri-

The plaintiffs, who split their time between Canada and Israel, claim lasting psychological and physical damage from the bloody conflict between Israel's military and Hezbollah gunmen who lobbed thousands of rockets at northern Israel.

They think the bank should compensate them for their suffering.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A Russian soldier shot dead three colleagues and wounded another yesterday before killing himself, Russia's Defence Ministry said in a statement. The private ran away from his guard post and opened fire at other soldiers when they tried to detain him. REUTERS





"Screening should take



Kids' heart health

Some children as young as two should be screened for high cholesterol, high blood pressure and other heart disease risks, according to new guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics released yesterday.

41 dead in embassy bombing

India's Kabul office targeted, Afghanistan says foreign agents involved

A suicide car bomb hit the Indian Embassy in Kabul yesterday, killing 41 people and wounding 139, in an attack Afghan authorities said was coordinated with foreign agents in the region, a likely reference to Pakistan.

Afghanistan has accused Pakistani agents of being behind a number of attacks in recent weeks and Afghan President Hamid Karzai threatened last month to send troops across the border to attack militants there if Pakistan did not take action.

Afghan analysts argue Pakistan is loath to see the emergence of a strong Afghanistan that is friend"I saw wounded and dead people everywhere on the road."

Danish Karokhil. witness

ly to India and is secretly backing the Taliban as a "strategic asset," enabling Pakistani forces to concentrate on defending the Indian border.

Pakistan denies the Afghan accusations and strongly condemned yes terday's attack in which the bomber rammed his car into the embassy just as two diplomatic vehicles

were entering.
"I saw wounded and



Afghan police secure the site of a suicide car bomb blast at the Indian embassy in Kabul, yesterday.

dead people everywhere on the road," said Danish Karokhil, the head of the independent Pajhwok news agency, whose offices are nearby.

India's military and press attaches and two Indian guards were among the 41 killed, but a line of people waiting for visas and shoppers at a nearby

market were the main victims of the blast, the deadliest in Kabul since U.S.led and Afghan forces toppled the Taliban from power in 2001.

A Taliban spokesman denied responsibility for the attack, although another militant spokesman said earlier the hard-line Islamist militia had been behind the bombing. The Taliban often disown attacks that kill large numbers of civilians.

The explosion stroyed the two embassy vehicles, blew the embassy gates off, all but de-molished the embassy walls and badly damaged buildings inside the compound.

Talks not about setting withdrawal date: White House

IRAQ U.S.-Iraqi security talks to permit U.S. troops to stay in Iraq beyond 2008 were not aimed at setting a hard deadline for withdrawal, despite such a suggestion by the Iraqi prime minister, the White House said yesterday. "Negotiations and discussions are ongoing every day," White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said in Japan, where U.S. President George W. Bush was attending the Group of Eight summit. "It is important to understand that these are not talks on a hard date for a withdrawal," he said.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki yesterday raised the prospect of set-ting a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops as part of a new security agreement.

REUTERS

News in brief

WEST BANK Israeli soldiers yesterday wounded at least 10 Palestinians in a West Bank town as they attempted to stifle protests against a separation barrier, residents said. Soldiers fired live ammunition and used teargas and stun grenades to try to quell violent protests at the Palestinian town of Nilin where Israel is building a barrier declared illegal by the World Court four years ago this week.

HURRICANE Strengthening far more swiftly and vigorously than predicted. Hurricane Bertha became a "major" hurricane in the open Atlantic yesterday, with sustained winds of at least 115 miles per hour. U.S. forecasters said.

Colombia Cargo plane hits house



Colombian firemen try to extinguish flames from the remains of a 747-200 cargo plane that crashed in the town of Madrid near Bogota yesterday. Three Colombians were killed when the plane crashed into their house near the capital city while all eight crew members on board the aircraft survived, authorities said.

Iran, America flex military muscle in Gulf showdown

war games Iran started war games yesterday and its president rejected a demand by major powers that it stop enriching uranium as "illegitimate," showing no sign of backing down in a stand-off over Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

Missile units of the elite Revolutionary Guards' naval and air forces began war games, Iranian news agencies said, hours after the U.S. Navy said it had begun exercises in the Gulf.

Speculation about an attack on the world's fourthlargest oil exporter over its nuclear program rose after a report last month said Israel had practised such a

Navy exercise

The U.S. Navy said yesterday it was carrying out an exercise in the Gulf, days after vowing that Iran will not be allowed to block the waterway which carries crude from the world's largest oilexporting region.

strike. Fears of military confrontation helped send world oil prices to record highs.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said yesterday his country would not stop enriching uranium.

REUTERS



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world

Fuel hike hits Mexico

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mexico's government is quickening the pace of gasoline price increases, fanning jitters over inflation. The price was raised to 7.23 pesos per litre on July 1. REUTERS

Russian-British relations Costa Rica remain cool despite meeting 30% to 50% RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Medvedev, Brown meet for first time at G8 summit

The first meeting between Russian President Dmitry **Medvedev and British Prime Minister Gordon** Brown failed yesterday to thaw bilateral relations that are at their lowest point since the Cold War.

The meeting on the sidelines of the Group of Eight rich nations summit in Japan had fuelled hopes it could ease a row over a \$38-billion oil joint ven-ture, TNK-BP, or problems for Britain's cultural outpost in Russia, the British

"The president proposed to focus on elevating relations to a normal level." Seraei Prikhodko.

Council.

policy advisor

Medvedev and Brown smiled and shook hands praising great potential for Russian-British ties, but made no substantial headway in the thorny issues souring relations.

"The president proposed to focus on elevating relations to a normal level," Medvedev's chief foreign adviser policy adviser Sergei Prikhodko told reporters.

'Brown outlined his own ideas about problems in bilateral ties, including the British Council, some major oil companies," he said. 'Medvedev gave explanations and drew Brown's attention to the need to work out a long-term approach to cooperation.'

Moscow and London established cordial ties after

Medvedev's predecessor, Vladimir Putin, came to power in 2000. But they soured as Russia accused Britain of hosting the Kremlin's political foes, including self-exiled tycoon Boris Berezovsky.

Ties plummeted to their lowest point since the Cold War after Russia refused to extradite to Britain ex-security guard Andrei Lugovoy accused of poisoning outspoken Kremlin critic Alexander Litvinenko in London in 2006.

REUTERS

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Property values at Tico Time's Punta Indio project are expected to double in just 18 months due to rising demand in the Nicoya Peninsula area. Pricing on Punta Indio's fully furnished beachfront homes start at \$599,000 U.S.

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For more information on Tico Time, its properties, or buying tours, go to www. ticotime.ca, or call 1-877-900-1188/403-455-3408 or email us at ticotime@

13 injured in running of the bulls

SPAIN Thirteen people were taken to hospital, one of them seriously injured, on the first day of the annual bull running festival in the northern Spanish town of Pamplona vesterday, organizers said.

A 37-year-old man suffered a collapsed lung, ruptured spleen and broken ribs, while two people were concussed and 10 others were treated mainly for cuts and bruises.

The annual San Fermin festival draws tourists from around the world.



A Spanish matador lies on the arena as he is tackled during a bullfight at the San Fermin festival in Pamplona, Spain, yesterday.

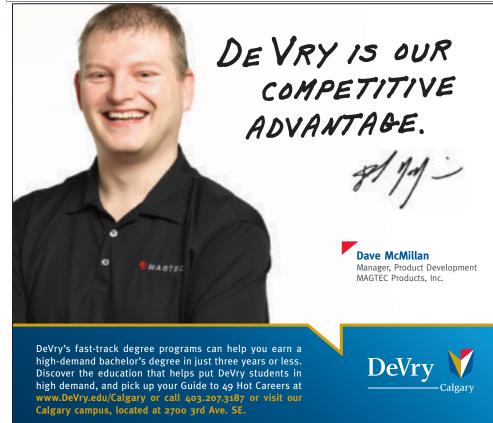
The bulls are usually killed after the runs by bullfighters. Although still popular massively

Spain, bullfighting is attracting protests and critical articles in newspapers.

Controversy ahead of papal visit

AUSTRALIA The head of the Catholic Church in Australia was embroiled in a sexual abuse controversy vesterday, only days before Pope Benedict arrives for a visit that could see abuse victims staging protests.

Cardinal George Pell denied he misled a man complaining of sexual abuse by a Sydney priest when he wrote him a letter in 2003 saying his abuse claim was rejected because there were no other complaints against the priest.



A waxwork of Adolf Hitler will return to Berlin's new Madame Tussauds as soon as experts have restored the head ripped off by a demonstrator on its opening day, the museum said yesterday. REUTERS

Obama nomination moves outdoors

Candidate to accept at football stadium

Barack Obama will accept the Democratic presidential nomination next month at a Denver football stadium that can hold more than 75.000 people after the political party decided to open the event to a broader audience, officials said yesterday.

"Senator Obama's candidacy has generated an enormous amount of excitement and interest," Howard Dean, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, said in a statement. "By bringing the last night of the convention out to the people, we will be able to showcase Barack

economic debate

Presidential rivals Barack Obama and John McCain clashed over how to boost the ailing U.S. economy yesterday, with Obama pushing for a new stimulus package to help homeowners and Mc-Cain pressing for low income taxes and incentives for small business.

Obama's positive, people-centered vision for our country in a big way.

The Democratic Party holds its nominating convention Aug. 25-28 in Denver, with daytime meetings and councils held at the Colorado Convention Center evening events at the Pepsi Center sports arena, which can hold up to 20,000 people.

The party decided to hold the final evening's televised events, including Obama's nomination acceptance speech, at IN-VESCO Field at Mile High, the 76,125-seat stadium that is hone to the Denver Broncos football team

The additional space enables the party to open the event a broader audience. Attendance at nominating conventions in generally limited to delegates, elected officials and volunteers, convention woman said. REUTERS

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Colombian hostage Family reunion



Thomas Howes, right, one of three U.S. defense contractors freed on July 2 after five years as a rebel-held hostage in Colombia, poses yesterday with members of his family at a news conference at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas.

News in brief

POLITICS Sudan's parliament passed a new election law yesterday, paving the way for the first free ballot in 23 years to take place on schedule next year in Africa's biggest state. But opposition parties and south

Sudanese former rebels said they only accepted the new law to avoid delaying the election and feared it could give an unfair advantage to President Omar Hassan al-Bashir's ruling National Congress Party.

AFRICA Zimbabwe urged the world yesterday to accept President Robert Mugabe's re-election and said any move to impose U.N. sanctions on his government would hurt everyone involved.

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10

Microsoft still wants piece of Yahoo, financier says

Financier Carl Icahn quoted Microsoft Corp. CEO Steve Ballmer as saying Microsoft would be willing to reopen talks to buy all or part of Yahoo Inc. if a new board were elected at Yahoo's August shareholder meeting. REUTERS

Business

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Buyers wary of future

Consumer confidence drops to lowest level in 13 years, survey finds

Canadian consumer confidence slumped to its lowest level in nearly 13 years in June due to the surge in gasoline prices and concern about future economic conditions, the Conference Board of Canada said yesterday.

The board's index of consumer confidence dropped 6.2 points in June to 79.6, its lowest level since the fourth quarter of 1995. The results are based on 2,000 telephone interviews conducted in early June.

The survey said Canadians have become increasingly wary about making major purchases such as a car or house. The number of respondents who said

declines

Every region of the country saw waning levels of confidence, with the largest decline in British Columbia. where the index fell to its lowest level since mid-2003.

now is not a good time to make a major purchase rose 6.1 percentage points

to 54.9 per cent. Asked if their families would be better off financially six months from now, 23.3 per cent of respondents thought they would be, down from 26.1 percent in May. About 21.9 per cent thought they would be worse off, up from 17.1 per cent a month earlier.

The Bank of Canada's Business Outlook Survey released yesterday pointed to increased inflationary risks to the economy. which some market participants felt increased the likelihood of a rate hike in early 2009. The bank held its key overnight rate steady in June. REUTERS

Going green

Corporate Canada grooms image

CHANGING Canadian companies are trying to cultivate a green competitive edge as concern about the environment mounts.

Nortel Networks is ag gressively promoting its new network gear as twice as energy efficient as arch rival Cisco's Oil sands producers have launched a communications campaign. And banks now tout green loans, investments and corporate responsibility. REUTERS

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South Africa Mandela coin



dela holds a 5 rand coin (inset) minted to commemorate his 90th birthday in Johannesburg yesterday.

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Workers protected in bankruptcies

NEW PROGRAM Employees of Canadian companies that have declared bankruptcy will get compensation for unpaid wages under a new program that went into effect yesterday. The Wage Earner Protection Program will cost the federal government an estimated \$35 million a year. About 10,000 to 20,000

workers in companies that have declared bankruptcy file claims for unpaid wages each year.

Three-quarters of them never receive any payment and those who do only get about 13 cents for every dollar owed, Labor Minister Jean-Pierre Blackburn told reporters.

REUTERS

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Calgary Stampede



Family shares ag knowledge

BY **KRISTA SYLVESTER**METRO CALGARY

Keeping it in the family is a motto the Lee family is familiar with because they are living it every day.

The Lee family made up of mom Debbie, dad Pat, 23-year-old daughter Danielle and 21-year-old son Jeff, have been farming their entire lives, following in the footsteps of Debbie's parents.

But they have also been volunteering at the Calgary Stampede in the agriculture area since Danielle was born, and, as her mother jokes, she doesn't know anything else.

"We have been doing this since she was a baby and it's a family thing. We really like sharing our agriculture knowledge with the urbanites," Debbie told Metro.

Danielle may have been milking cows since she was a baby but she really loves the atmosphere of the Calgary Stampede.

"For me, I love the people. It's the only fair in the world you can meet so many different people of ages and backgrounds from different countries. It's just a lot of fun," "The common bond is dairy cows, which is our area of expertise."

Debbie Lee

Danielle said.

The Lee's usually spend their Stampede volunteering in the agricultures building sheering sheep, milking cows or just talking with interested visitors.

"It's just so natural to us and sometimes we get people from other parts of the world but the common bond is dairy cows, which is our area of expertise," Debbie said.

"But sometimes we get people who don't know a lot about agriculture and we get to share and help show people how important agriculture is," she added.

Another great thing about the Stampede is the other volunteers, Danielle said. "It's kind of like a family of its own. It's really nice to come down here and see the same people. The Stampede is just such a great place to be, it's the best outdoor show on earth."



Debbie Lee with daughter Danielle give their cow Christie a hug at the Ag-Tivity in the City tent set up at the Stampede. This family has been volunteering at the Stampede over 20 years.

F ess Vu

Doug Armitage, left, VP of Business Development for the Calgary Stampede and Allan MacDonald, VP of Sales and Marketing for Bell Canada, square off on Guitar Hero 3 at the Bell RodeoX tent yesterday.

Bell, Stampede suits strum in Guitar Hero showdown

BY **KRISTA SYLVESTER** METRO CALGARY

It was high noon, and it was a showdown between two cowboys armed with

guitars. Yes, guitars.

The Bell RodeoX tent was home to a classic head-to-head Battle of the Bands on Guitar Hero yesterday between the vice-president of Bell Canada Allan MaDonald and Stampede vice-president Doug Armitage.

"It's Stampede and it's about having fun and that's what we're here to do," Armitage said. It was the first time for both cowboys playing the games and it was a fun time for sure, as people gathered around laughing at the antics — although the music didn't sound as hot.

"I have two young kids at home so I play more soccer than video games. But I have an addictive personality so maybe I will start playing this more often," he added, before rocking out on guitar.

Though both players weren't rocking out like Aerosmith, they did have a fan base taking pictures and bobbing their heads. We'll call this one a draw, boys.

Awards hail farm families

BY KRISTA SYLVESTER METRO CALGARY

Neighbours helping neighbours is more than just a saying for one family recognized yesterday at the BMO Farm Family Awards ceremony.

ceremony.

The Calgary Stampede hosted the awards recognizing hard-working 18 Albertan families making significant contributions to the agriculture industry, including the Humfrey family.

family.

"We're really honoured to be recognized but we also think of it as a acknowledgment of our community and the great neighbours we have," Clint Humfrey told Metro at the ceremony.

The Humfrey family farm is located south of Calgary in Mazeppa, near High River, and the family has kept the farm since started in 1913.

"We have a great neighbour base and it's nice to help each other out and learn from one another. This honour is like an honour to the entire community."

Vice-president of BMO Ted McCarron said the awards are an important way to outline the importance of the provinces' agriculture industry.

"These families are outstanding examples of how farm management has come and the tremendous contributions these families make to enriching life in rural Alberta," he said.

Minister of Agriculture George Groenveld was at the ceremony on behalf of the government and said the families and others like them are a big reason why Alberta is such a beautiful place to live, work and raise families.

Stampede facts

There are 4,000 Stampedetime employees. There are more than 30,000 flowers planted at the stampede each year.

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Calgary Stampede

Rodeo Results

Bull Riding

Canter, Brian	Randleman, NC	Buffalo Soldier	87.
Schiffner, Scott	Strathmore, Alta	Hazard County	87.
Besplug, Chad	Claresholm, Alta	Blind Date	87.
Bohon, Matt	Cole Camp, MO	Vanilla Sky	78.
Mauney, J.B.	Mooresville, NC	Justin Boots	ВО
Roy, Nathan	Lloydminister, Sask	Big Dog	ВО
Pankewitz, Tyler	Warburg, Alta	Tangle Flags	ВО
Edge, Denton	Marwayne, Alta	Speed Dial	ВО
Clark, Brendon	Coalinga, CA	Wranglers Rock Star	ВО
Elliot, Dustin	North Platte, NE	Locomotion	0.0

Saddle Bronc

Willet, Jeff	Belvidere, SD	Lynx Mountain	89.5
Elshere, JJ	Quinn, SD	Cloverleaf	86.0
Ferley, Chad	Oelrichs, SD	Bookmark	83.5
Bello, Anthony	Oakley, UT	Zippy Delivery	83.0
Diaz, Isaac	Stephenville, TX	Fearless Warrior	82.0
Taton, Cody	Newell, SD	Gallant Warrior	81.0
Arnold, Justin	Santa Margarita, CA	Strawberry Alley	81.0
Flundra, Dustin	Pincher Creek, Alta	Alley Inn	75.5
Kreutzer, Ross	Maple Creek, Sask	Royal Visit	ВО
DeMoss, Heith	Crowville, LA	Shady Cat	ВО

Bareback

Shields, Jr., Davey	Bashaw, Alta	Cool Pieces	87.5
Jeter, Jason	Mansfield, TX	Coconut Roll	85.5
Hallaby, Russ	Airdrie, Alta	Majestic Rocket	85.0
Timberman, Kelly	Mills, WY	Hurricane Terry	83.0
Stevenson, Wes	Lubbock, TX	Grated Coconut	79.5
Dent, Steven	Mullen, NE	Journal Keeper	79.0
LaValley, Dusty	Crooked Creek, Alta	Silver Moon	79.0
Harris, Chris	Itasca, TX	Blue Wings	SLP
Whiteside, Travis	Longview, Alta	Sky Reach	DR
McFarland, Tom	Wickenburg, AZ	Easy Does It	ВО

Tie-Down Roping

Hockley, TX	7.0
Hereford, TX	7.1
Colbert, WA	7.4
Chubbuck, ID	8.0
Ponca City, OK	9.7
Madden, Alta	11.1
Hico, TX	NT
Ogden, UT	NT
Spanish Fork, UT	NT
Pueblo, CO	NT
	Hereford, TX Colbert, WA Chubbuck, ID Ponca City, OK Madden, Alta Hico, TX Ogden, UT Spanish Fork, UT

Steer Wrestling

Milan, Baillie	Cochrane, Alta	3.3
Milan Tanner	Cochrane, Alta	3.8
Mulligan, Sean	Coleman, OK	4.2
Suhn, Todd	Weatherford, TX	4.4
LeDoux, Gabe	Kaplan, LA	4.6
Woodward, Todd	Magrath, Alta	4.6
Robinson, Clint	Spanish Fork, UT	4.7
Hazen, Jule	Ashland, KS	14.1
Peek, Josh	Pueblo, CO	18.0
Cassidy, Curtis	Donalda, Alta	NT
LeDoux, Gabe Woodward, Todd Robinson, Clint Hazen, Jule Peek, Josh	Kaplan, LA Magrath, Alta Spanish Fork, UT Ashland, KS Pueblo, CO	4.6 4.6 4.7 14.1

Ladies Barrel Racino

Okotoks, Alta	17.65
Oelrichs, SD	17.96
Portales, NM	18.10
DeWinton, Alta	18.20
Henryetta, OK	18.22
Marana, AZ	18.44
Aliz, Alta	18.49
Victoria, TX	22.76
Erskine, Alta	22.77
Lethbridge, Alta	27.95
	Okotoks, Alta Oelrichs, SD Portales, NM DeWinton, Alta Henryetta, OK Marana, AZ Aliz, Alta Victoria, TX Erskine, Alta

Chuckwagon Results

Reg Johnstone	Cargill	1:17.65
Jim Knight	Woundeds Picker Services	1:19.00
Ross Fisher	Cam Clark Trailers	1:23.83
Troy Dorchester	Sunset Ridge of Cochrane	1:26.48

HEAT 2

Grant Profit	Hopewell Development	1:17.32
Chad Harden	ATB Financial	1:17.86
Troy Flad	Borden Ladner Gervais	1:18.42
Ross Knight	CCS Corporation	1:19.97
HEAT 3		=:=5:57

Roger Moore
Mike Vigen
Rick Fraser
Todd Baptiste

CMP Chevrolet Pontiac GMC Jayman MasterBUILT Pacrim Hospitality Services HEAT A Kelly Sutherland Talk & Train
Colt Cosgrave High River Autoplex & RV
N. Cuthbertson Primera Racing Stables Ltd
Sean DeBolt Carma Developers

HEAT 5

Vern Nolin Leo Tournier Luke Tournier

Brian Laboucane The Mavericks

HEAT 6

Hugh Sinclair

The Cowboys Posse

NCI Construction

The Lucid Group Friends of the Mavericks 1:17.66 1:17.81 1:27.92

1:17.86

1:18.82 1:18.86

1:32.65

1:19.26 1:19.88

Gary Gorst Royal Liquor Merchants/Zirco 1:18.46 Doug Irvine B & R Eckels Tra Neal Walgenbach Super 8 Motels B & R Eckels Transport Ltd 1:19.30

Ray Mitsuing	Airstream Heating & AC	1:19.25
Tim Haroldson	Friends of Heritage Park	1:19.64
Wayne Knight	Express Employment	1:22.92
Kurt Bensmiller	WestJet	1:31.18
	Tim Haroldson Wayne Knight	Tim Haroldson Friends of Heritage Park Wayne Knight Express Employment

Jason Glass	Shaw GMC Pontiac Buick	1:17.7
Rae Croteau Jr.	Janssen Homes	1:17.7
Grant Preece	Tide Firewagon	1:19.3
Shane Nolin	Heninger Toyota & Chickwa	gon 1:24:6

HEAT 9

Jerry Bremner	Blackmont Capital Inc.	1:17.34
Kirk Sutherland Mark Sutherland	Cam Clark Ford Sales Ltd Friends of SAIT	1:18.87 1:19.08
Buddy Bensmiller	ACERA Developments	1:29.10

SOURCE: CALGARY STAMPEDE

Stampede Music Lineup

Coca-Cola Stage

Noon: The Heebee-jeebees

2 p.m.: Terry Stokes

3:30 p.m.: The Heebee-jeebees

5 p.m.: Terry Stokes 9 p.m.: Finger Eleven

.



Scott Anderson and Finger Eleven will be the headline act on the Coca-Cola Stage at Stampede Park tonight at 9.

• • • • • •

Nashville North Stage

12:30 p.m.: The Good Brothers 1:45 p.m.: Country Superstars 3 p.m.: The Good Brothers 4:30 p.m.: Country Superstars 5:30 p.m.: Krysta Scoggins 6:30 p.m.: Country Superstars 7:30 p.m.: The Good Brothers 9 p.m.: Emerson Drive

11 p.m. and 12:15 a.m.: Hey Romeo



Brad Mates and Emerson Drive will take to the stage in **Nashville North at** Stampede Park tonight at 9.

14

Calgary Stampede



Kids enjoy a special Stampede breakfast

BY **KRISTA SYLVESTER**METRO CALGARY

Enjoying a Grit-ty breakfast and catching some

fast and catching some rides before the large crowds rolled in, more than 300 special needs children took in the Stampede yesterday.

The 28th annual Giddy-Up Grits breakfast welcomed families to a special event closed to the public in the Kids Midway hosted by the Stampede Queen's Alumni.

"It can be overwhelming bringing your kids down here at anytime, but for kids with special needs it can be even more so. It's a nice opportunity for the families to enjoy the midway without the

large crowds," alumni queen Tara Wesner told Metro.

Last year the weather wasn't very nice, so Wesner was happy to see the weather cooperated yesterday.

"It's been great. The

"It's been great. The families are really enjoying themselves and it's really nice to look around and see so many smiles."

The kids enjoyed breakfast, mascots, games and free rides at the Kids Midway and also received some toy stuffed animals, which was a favourite for a lot of the kids.

a lot of the kids.
Gwen Vesterback and her husband have brought their 12-year-old daughter Ellie down to the special event every

year since she was two-years-old.

"It's a really nice time to bring her down here, and see the other families. She really likes the rides and the toys, and it's just nice to be here," she said. John G. and his son

John G. and his son Mark enjoyed the ring throwing game, trying to win a little stuffed animal.

Stampede Queen Alumni chair Holly (Cartwright) Labrie said the event is one of a few the Stampede hosts throughout the year for children with special needs

"This is our biggest one, but we also host one in the winter and another in the fall that brings about 75 kids to those ones," she said.



Niki Gray, Early Intervention Therapist, and Jay, 4, ride the Bumble Bee Bop during the Giddy-up pancake breakfast for special needs children at Stampede Park yesterday.



Money Matters columnist Henry Choo Chong says you should consider the new Tax Free Savings Account (TFSA) from the February's budgetary proposal that may provide an alternative to RRSPs when trying to purchase a new home. Check *metronews.ca* for this week's full column.



business 15

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To manage credit, first know the score

f you are like most of our friends, we are willing to bet that you know all of the latest celebrity gossip. And you likely even know exactly what the last bid was on that purse you've been eyeing on EBay. But when it comes to your credit score, what do you know?

This powerful number is way more significant to your everyday life than you might think. It has a direct impact on your ability to take out a mortgage and apply for credit cards or other loans.

But most importantly this number determines the amount of interest you'll pay on all of these products. The higher your FICO score, the more money you'll save yourself. For example, someone with a score above 760 could literally pay thousands of dollars less per year in inter-

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is 15 credit down:

• 35 history

• 30 owed o

• 15 credit had the

• 10 j (new a

than someone whose score is below 620.

Credit scores range from 300 to 850. Here's how a credit score is broken

- 35 per cent = payment history
- 30 per cent = amounts owed on each account
- 15 per cent = length of credit (how long you've had the accounts)
- 10 percent = new credit (new accounts opened or inquiries made for more credit)
 - 10 percent = types of credit in use (e.g. credit card, department store, mortgage, or school loans)

The higher your FICO score, the more money you'll save yourself.



And here's how you can keep your score high: Payment History

Make your monthly payments on time. If you are having trouble keeping up with payments, notify your lender and work out an arrangement. Next, as soon as possible get current on any past due accounts.

Amounts Owed

Keep your total balance at 35 per cent, or less, of your total credit available. Also, you need to know that opening new credit cards or lines of credit just to make your outstanding balances look smaller in relation to your total credit capacity won't help; in fact, it could actually hurt you if you rack up more debt on those accounts.

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Consider keeping old accounts open if you've been a good borrower. Closing an account actually erases your good payment history from your report. It's better to cut up the card but leave the account open.

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When shopping for new credit, keep the search to a short time frame — aim for 14 days or less. FICO scores distinguish between a search for a single loan and a search for several new sources of credit, in part by the length of time over which the inquiries

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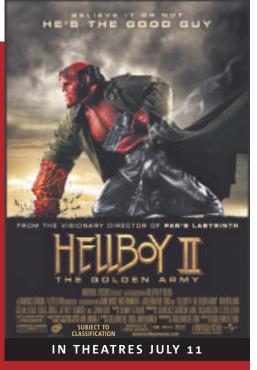
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Hockey Canada, in partnership with the Canadian Hockey League, announced yesterday that Saskatoon and Regina will host the 2010 IIHF World Junior Championship. Ottawa will host the 2009 tournament. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports and Wimbledon in the same year for me is the No. 1 in the world." Tennis legend Boris Becker on the fact Rafael Nadal still trails Roger Federer, whom he beat to win the French Open and Wimbledon, in the world rankings.

"Whoever wins the French Open



Umberger signs

tract yesterday. They acquired Umberger in a trade with the Flyers.

Cubs targeting Burnett, Harden

Either Canadian Rich Harden or the Blue Jays' A.J. Burnett will soon join the Chicago Cubs' pitching rotation.

That was the word to Metro vesterday from MLB sources, who revealed that the Cubs are involved in intense trade talks with the Oakland A's for Harden and the Jays for Bur-

"The Cubs are livid because they thought they had a deal lined up for the pitcher they wanted most. (C.C. Sabathia)," a source said. "But the (Cleveland) Indians went and traded the guy to the Cubs' main division and geographic rival (the Milwaukee Brewers) and so they've decided they absolutely must have Harden or Burnett.'

Harden, a B.C. native, has been deemed expendable by the A's because he is due next season for a huge raise that they've decided they can't afford. The Jays, who languish in the cellar of the AL East. have deemed Burnett expendable because of his inconsistency and because the Jays are seeking to strengthen themselves at non-pitching positions.

• The Jays, incidentally, are fifth best in the major leagues in team earnedrun average and yet they're virtually out of contention already because of their offensive ineptitude.

They have only seven wins this season in games when their opponents scored first.

Rance Sportsnet's Mulliniks, who picked the Jays to win the World Series before the season opened, now suggests the team is "not mentally tough enough."

• Before the CFL season, I suggested Montreal quarterback Anthony Calvillo and the rest of the Alouettes would be lousy. Well, they've excelled, and they're 2-0.

Similarly, I figured the Saskatchewan Roughriders would plummet this

metr⊕



son, but they too are 2-0, and dozens of Riders Priders have been emailing me with questions about my sanity.

Ah, well. It's still early in the CFL season.

Mulliniks can't say that about the MLB season.

• Two ex-Argonauts are telling friends they'll be seeking revenge Thursday night, when Toronto visits Edmonton.

Both defensive halfback Jordan Younger and kicker Noel Prefontaine feel they were treated unprofessionally when the Argos traded them to Edmonton in the off-season.

• Saskatchewan general manager Eric Tillman called Bob Ackles, "The most important person in the B.C. Lions' history." I'll take it a step further. He may have been the CFL's most important

Even this year, at 69, Ackles campaigned vehemently and vociferously against any possible notions the NFL has had about coming into Canada. He suggested the NFL's invasion to Toronto would be the death of the CFL.

I first met Bob in 1979, when I was a kid reporter for The Globe and Mail. We had our differences, but he consistently showed class and even insisted on occasion that I be his house guest during some of my travels.

Bob's story - from water boy with the Lions to club president — is leg-endary. His death Sunday, caused by a heart attack. jolted the CFL. The league will miss his leadership.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Bertuzzi joins Flames Iginla played key role in signing forward

LAURENCE HEINEN for Metro Calgary

Jarome Iginla gave the newest member of the Flames a ringing endorsement yesterday after Calgary signed Todd Bertuzzi to a one-year deal.

"When I saw that Todd was going to be a free agent, I thought he'd be a great fit in Calgary," said the Calgary captain. "I've admired him for a lot of years, his on-ice game. He was a very tough guy to play against, a tough competitor.'

Iginla, who played with Bertuzzi on Canada's Olympic men's team in 2006, even hinted that he'd like to play on a line with the 6-foot-3, 231-pound power forward.

"I'm very excited he's going to join our club and hopefully get a chance to play with him," Iginla said. "I think we can do some good things."

Before signing the \$1.95 million US deal, Bertuzzi talked with Iginla about the opportunity to play for the Flames.

"Jarome is 100 per cent why I'm a Calgary Flame," said Bertuzzi, noting that Iginla gave glowing reports about the organization and the city. "It's a great Canadian market. They're passignate about their hockey and I'm excited to come

Calgary general manager Darryl Sutter said Iginla's endorsement of Bertuzzi was a big reason why the Flames decided to sign the 33-year-old native of Sudbury, Ont.

"I talk to our captain lots about a lot of players and the one player that he identified more than anybody if we were going to add a veteran player was Bertuzzi," said Sutter, who liked the fact that Bertuzzi was willing to accept a one-year deal. "At the end of the day, the money worked so that's probably why it was

Bertuzzi, who scored 46 goals and added 51 assists in 82 games with the Vancouver Canucks in the 2002-03 season, said he's looking forward to returning to Loguiddian team after stops in Florida,

Detroit and f

"I played my best hockey when I was in Canada under the microscope and under the pressure," Bertuzzi said. "Calgary's given me an opportunity to come in and to get some ice time and play. I still think that I get back up there and contribute with what they need."

Bertuzzi is perhaps best known for being suspended in 2004 after crosschecking Steve Moore from behind and breaking the Colorado Avalanche forward's neck.

"I think it's a long time ago," Sutter said. "It's like, I had a traffic ticket three years ago."

Iginla said he's also willing to forgive his new teammate for the incident.

"He made a very bad decision," Iginla said. "I assure you if he could take that back, he'd take that back. I do believe in second chances.

Now, Bertuzzi is hoping to put his past behind him and reunite with coach Mike Keenan, who helped him emerge as an offensive threat with the Canucks.

gave me my kick-start in Vancouver," Bertuzzi said. "Obviously, it's been well documented that a lot of my success has come from him and how he played me and how he used me."

Indians swap Sabathia to Brewers for prospects

TRADE The Milwaukee Brewers officially acquired pitcher C.C. Sabathia from the Cleveland Indians Monday for four players.

The reigning American League Cy Young Award winner was exchanged for a package that includes left fielder Matt LaPorta, and pitchers Zach Jackson and Rob Bryson along with a player to be named later.

Sabathia is 6-5 with a 2.16



3.21 ERA to capture the Cy Young C.C. Sabathia Award. "C.C. is one of the top pitchers in the game today, said Brewers general man-

ager Doug Melvin.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

April 22. Last

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Minnesota at Boston, 5:05
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Yankees, 5:05
Cleveland at Detroit, 5:05
Baltimore at Toronto, 5:07 L.A. Angels at Texas, 6:05 Chicago White Sox at Kansas City,

6:10 Seattle at Oakland, 8:05 NATIONAL LEAGUE Houston at Pittsburgh, 5:05 St. Louis at Philadelphia, 5:0

Arizona at Washington, 5:10 Colorado at Milwaukee, 6:05 Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs, 6:05

Cincinnati at Chicago Cuby, 6:05
Florida at San Diego, 8:05
Atlanta at LA. Dodgers, 8:10
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THURSDAY'S GAMES
CALGARY at Montreal, 5
Toronto at Edmonton, 8 FRIDAY'S GAME
B.C. at Winnipeg, 6
SATURDAY'S GAME

Saskatchewan at Hamilton, 2 BASEBALL

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Beijing Games:

Cooke's 'second wind'

Former indoor volleyball player looks to Beijing

Take a look at your nearest beach on any given summer evening and it won't be too hard to find a group of thirty-somethings playing beer-league beach volleyball.

While many of them may have had a background in the sport, it's unlikely any of them are heading to the Olympic Games in the future.

Yet, that's exactly where Dana Cooke is poised to be headed, pending the outcome of a qualification tournament in France this week.

The 33-year-old Cooke and partner Annie Martin have spent the last month travelling Europe, going from tournament to tournament in an effort to secure a spot

CAN

spent the last month travelling Europe, going from tournament to tournament in an effort to secure a spot in Beijing. Had you asked Cooke two years ago if she thought she'd be in this position, the answer would have been no.

"It was just a ridiculous

thought to me, that I had virtually no beach experience besides tournaments on the OVA tour for fun and the usual bar leagues in the summer." says Cooke about her relatively recent foray into the beach game. "Actually I didn't like it at all ... I felt the game was not powerful and that few players really hit. I didn't understand all this cut-shot, roll shot and pokey stuff."

But like any athlete

can tell you, while the game may change, it never leaves you. Cooke is far from a volleyball neophyte. As an indoor player she was a standout high schooler in suburban Toronto, parlaying that into an NCAA scholarship at Michigan State. As the program rose from the cellar, she helped lead the Spartans to two Big Ten Champi-onships and a Final Four

onships and a Final Four appearance. After that it was a professional indoor volleyball career in Holland, an experience she wouldn't have traded for anything.

"It won't make you crazy rich, but I had great times both on and off the court," she says. "Living in



Annie Martin, left, and Dana Cooke in action.

Europe, getting paid to play a sport – what a life!"

Cooke came home to coach the McMaster University men's team for two seasons before returning to Europe, but it wasn't until 2006 that her current path came into focus. While attending — out of curiosity — an identification-selection camp for the Canadian National Beach Volleyball Team, she was approached by Martin and her coach Vincent Larivee.

coach Vincent Larivee.

"I thought, 'What a great opportunity to get three days of training and playing with Canada's best,'" says Cooke. "I didn't foresee being approached by Annie's coach on day two and [him] asking me if I would like to be her partner and try to make a go of it for the Olympics. All I could do was laugh — and I did, out loud."

Despite our reputation as a winter-centric sports nation, Canada has a decent track record in the short history of Olympic beach volleyball — Mark Heese and John Child brought home bronze in the men's event in 1996 — and Cooke has embraced the opportunity.

"Being a beach player is a lifestyle," she

"Being a beach player is a lifestyle," she says. "You have to love it to face the challenges that are constantly put in front of you regarding travel, funding and just competing at this world level."

A "second wind" is a perfect way to describe it, explains Cooke. "I was very fortunate and I feel it's a 'right place, right time' moment."

Facts

NAME: Dana Cooke HOMETOWN: Burlington, ON BIRTHDATE: Aug. 13, 1974 HEIGHT: 6' SPORT: Beach volleyball FAVOURITE MOVIE: Princess Bride

Former champ fails to make team

GYMNASTICS Two-time former Olympic champion Elena Zamolodchikova will not compete in the Games after failing to make the Russian gymnastics squad.

Zamolodchikova, 25, who won two gold medals in 2000 and a team bronze four years later, gave a disappointing performance at the championships in Russia. She finished 12th in the all-around competition and failed to make the final in any of the four individual events. REUTERS

China restricting media, report says

FREE SPEECH A month before the Olympics, China continues to severely breach its pledge to allow full media freedoms, harassing and restricting foreign journalists in Tibet and elsewhere, Human Rights Watch said in a new report yesterday.

As part of Beijing's bid to host the Games, it promised temporary regulations to allow complete media freedoms.

Around 25,000 foreign journalists are expected to cover the Games. REUTERS

Bank to drop Mao from new notes

MONEY China's central bank will drop former leader Mao Zedong's face from six million new 10yuan notes to mark the Olympic Games.

One side of the note features the National Stadium, or Bird's Nest, in north Beijing, the main venue for the Games. The capital's historic Temple of Heaven public park is a backdrop.

The reverse side features an ancient Greek marble statue of a discus-thrower, Discobolus, portraits of athletes and the numeral 2008, the bank said. REUTERS

Tomorrow's lineup

IN HER GENES. Growing up in Trail, B.C., there was little for Lauren Bay to do besides play sports. She played many, but it was in the ballpark with her older brother Jason that she found her true calling. Pick up tomorrow's Metro for more.

days remain until the official start of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing. 18

Helping others is the best thing can do for ourselves. No matter what your age or interests, it pays plenty of health dividends
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Health •



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METRO NEWS SERVICE

Lash-enhancing drug



Glaucoma treatment's beauty side effect

Goodbye mascara.

One day soon you could have longer, thicker, darker eyelashes thanks to a drug called bimatoprost, which is now used to treat glaucoma and happens to have a happy side effect — extreme lash growth.

Only one problem. The drug, at least as it's used to treat glaucoma, has another possible cosmetic effect — raccoon eyes, or darkening of the skin around the eyes.

Hello concealer.

Allergan, the Californiabased maker of Botox, announced it will seek approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to market bimatoprost — which it's been selling in eyedrop form to glaucoma sufferers under the "We are pleased with the results of our clinical program and believe this innovative program, if approved, could meet a significant and unmet demand."

Scott Whitcup, Allergan

label Lumigan for years — as a treatment to stimulate eyelash growth.

The lash-lengthening drug could be available as early as 2009 in the U.S., though Allergan has not said it intends to

seek approval in Canada.

The company tested bimatroprost's cosmetic benefits in a 2007 trial that included participants in San Diego and Vancouver, though it won't discuss the results, beyond a news release that was issued earlier this month.

"We are pleased with the results of our clinical program and believe this innovative program, if approved, could meet a significant and unmet demand in the medical aesthetic marketplace," Scott Whitcup, Allergan's executive vice-president of research and development, said in the release.

The company won't say how the product is applied, whether side effects were reported, what it will cost or



California-based Allergan will seek approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to market bimatoprost, used for glaucoma, as a treatment to stimulate eyelash growth.

how dramatic the results of fective glaucoma drug, Lumithe trial were. fective glaucoma drug, Lumigan has dramatic cosmetic ef-

"For proprietary reasons, until published, we are not providing any more detail around the clinical program," Heather Katt, Allergan's manager of corporate communications, wrote in an email last week. In other words, the company doesn't want to give away trade secrets.

In addition to being an ef-

fective glaucoma drug, Lumigan has dramatic cosmetic effects, confirms a local doctor who specializes in glaucoma and has prescribed it to treat the eye disease.

"It certainly causes eyelashes to grow," says Dr. Graham Trope, a professor of ophthalmology at the University of Toronto and a specialist in the treatment of glaucoma. "It can be quite profound. It doesn't occur in everybody, but does occur in many."

A Phoenix-based optometrist who specializes in geriatric glaucoma and prescribes the drug to aging patients says it even has the power to regrow lashes that fell out long ago. "It doesn't matter how old, or whether it's a man or a woman," says Dr. Shannon Steinhauser.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Balancing family and sanity



oday, I'm packing for our annual family vacation. To be honest, "family vacation" seems a contradiction in terms; much like "too much coffee" or "leisure activity" or "delicious soy beverage." There's an old saying, "Friends are God's way of making up for your family." Family vacations often leave me muttering, "Yeah well, it's not enough."

I love my family. I just don't always love being with my family. I am not one of those people who think that families are people who push all your buttons

Real family, I'm convinced, are the ones who push your buttons, hold them down and slap a piece of duct tape over them.

If one of our family loses a job, divorces, or comes out as gay or transgendered — we have shared all these things, some more than once— the rest rally round and support each other, no question. But on a day-to-day basis, we bicker. We argue. We have difficulty always seeing life from the other's perspective.

We share a problem that is common to many family groups — we're human.

groups — we're human.

Over the years, I've learned how to balance those two precious things in life that don't always seem to go hand in hand: family relationships and personal sanity. Simple methods. Patience. Understanding. Call display.

When it comes to family vacations, one coping strategy is to focus on the upsides. For instance, anyone who has trouble channeling their inner child can spend many years in ex-

pensive, in-depth therapy, or they can attend a family gathering. With family, no one ever progresses past seven years old. No matter how mature or sophisticated I think I've become, my brother, Bruce, has only to say, "Remember the time Anne set fire to the dining room table?" and I'm reduced to, "Mom! Bruce is teeeeasing meeee!"

Self-help books can also be useful. Basically, these authors give the same advice as your mother, without finishing off with, "And if you'd sat up straight at the table this wouldn't be happening." It makes all the difference.

One book I read suggested that families who share a common dream get along better. My brothers and sisters do this: We each dream of being an only child.

In the end, the best we can hope for from time with relations is that after the squabbles and misunderstandings, we're still together. And perhaps, when it comes to family, that's just perfect.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

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Opera star Dame Joan Sutherland has broken both her legs after a fall in the garden of her home in Switzerland.

Tavlor live

lames Taylor is currently year-old twins Henry and Rufus. He plays Calgary on July 13.

Polaris list unveiled

Entertainment

Edwards, Stars up for annual music prize

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI



the artists shortlisted yesterday for this year's Polaris Music Prize. The \$20,000 Polaris hon-

ours the year's best Canadian album as voted on by a jury of 178 music journalists — past winners include Final Fantasy and Patrick Watson.

"It's a strong list as always," says Steve Jordan, Polaris's executive director. "This year points to a lot of the reasons why the whole world is getting into this stuff."

The winner will be announced at an awards show in September. Here's a quick look at the 10 artists who made the shortlist:

Black Mountain, In The Fu-

ture: If your radio is permanently set to classic rock, this Vancouver psych-rock act is for you. Their second disc is loaded with heavy riffs, Led Zeppelin-like wails, and Black Sabbath infused bombast. Basia Bulat, Oh My Darling: You can't go wrong with sweet, folk songwriting, but this London, Ont., singer-songwriter offers more than that. Her debut disc is loaded with easygoing indie pop numbers, perfect for a summer drive to the cottage.

Caribou, Andorra: Dan Snaith might not be living in the Great White North anymore — he call Britain-home — but his electroni-



Stars, above, and Kathleen Edwards, right are among the artists nominated for this year's Polaris Music Prize.

ca-meets-Beach Boys pop tunes are still beloved by indie-loving Canucks.

Kathleen Edwards, Asking For Flowers: The buzz has been building around this songstress for years and it's easy to see why. Her third disc includes everything from low-key hooks and distorted guitar blasts to gut wrenching lyrics about a murdered Toronto

20-something. Holy F-k, LP: Their name might be controversial, but you can't argue over this Toronto band's talent. The foursome is known for frenetically twisting knobs, pounding keyboards and pushing buttons to achieve some of the best distorted dance music around.

Plants and Animals, Parc Avenue: They might share a label with last year's Polaris Prize winner (Patrick Watson), but that's where the similarities end. This trio's debut delves deep into jammy, classic rock territory, complete with harmonies, solos and hooks. Shad, The Old Price: While it's a shame more hip-hop didn't make the shortlist, Shad's sophomore disc is definitely deserving of the prize. Stocked with infectious rhymes and brilliant beats, Shad isn't afraid to get serious about the tra-

vails of Canadian life. Stars, In Our Bedroom After The War: Stars' fourth release is the dreamiest record on the list. While the lush, complex arrangements alone should garner these guys a few points, the

boy-girl harmonies might put them over the edge. Two Hours Traffic, Little Jabs: This Joel Plaskett-produced Charlottetown foursome play catchy, road-trip approved rock 'n' roll, ideal for a jaunt across Canada. The Weakerthans, Reunion Tour: These Winnipegger's are known to many their poetic lyrics and accessible sounds have fans around the world - so it won't be a shock if their introspective new disc takes



Bon Jovi nearing end

Things are starting to get "a little bit" sentimental around the Bon Jovi camp as the New Jersey rockers enter the home stretch of their 2007-08 world tour, according to guitarist Richie Sambora.

Bon Jovi kicked off a final North American leg Sunday in Sarnia, Ont., and will finish with two shows at New York's Madison Square Garden on July 14-15. Bon Jovi will also play the Major League Baseball All-Star Game concert on July 12 in New York's Cen-

By the time it wraps the Lost Highway tour will have played to an estimated 966,000 fans worldwide since it began last October in New Jersey. The tour promoted the 2007 album Lost Highway" which was Bon Jovi's first No. 1 debut

board 200 and has sold more than 3.5 million copies worldwide, according Universal.

the songs start

The Bill-

tour is the end of an era and it's an end of a jour-ney," Sambora told Billney," Sambora told Bill-board.com. "The journey starts out with Jon (Bon Jovi) and I sitting in the room with a couple of pieces of paper and a pen and a guitar, and the



thing. And it ends up in the studio with the band and then on the promotional tour ... and then the

fun part, taking it to the people. So this'll be the end of the Lost Highway

era and the beginning of new one, absolutely."

Bon Jovi is starting to plot its next moves, too. One project in the offing is a documentary commemorating the band's 25 years.

"I'm not quite sure where to go — "Is it Great-est Hits, Vol. 2 or is it time for a solo record — or is it time to walk away?" says Bon Jovi. "I don't know what it'll be yet. I'm thinking about it but not thinking about it, y'know? I'm still too caught up in this touring process to REUTERS

people

the crown.

Clinton on tap for Costello talk show

TV Former U.S. president and saxophonist Bill Clinton will be featured in an episode of the new Elvis Costello-hosted talk/music series set to air on CTV.

Clinton, Lou Reed, Tony Bennett and Elton John are the subjects of the first four episodes of Spectacle: Elvis Costello With ..., which will debut on Dec. 3.

Clinton will not perform the sax but will talk about how music shaped his early career aspirations and White House tenure.REUTERS



20 entertainment

Surprising singer

Fans at a Saturday NASCAR event were shocked to realize that the country-rock band playing for them was fronted by actor Kevin Costner. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Paparazzi feeling the heat in LA

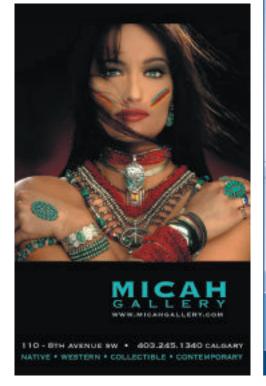
For years Hollywood's paparazzi have hounded celebrities, but now with help from local politicians, a lawver in the Monica Lewinsky case, and even Malibu surfers they are the ones feeling the heat.

In Los Angeles and the nearby beachside enclave of Malibu, city leaders want to slap restrictions on the paparazzi citing safety concerns. But the paps, along with legal experts,

say they are protected by their right to free speech under the U.S. Constitution. "The paparazzo is just as much covered by the First Amendment as you or I, or any Joe Schmo up the street," said Lucy Dalglish, executive director of the Virginia-based Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. "I don't think under any First Amendment law vou can single out a paparazzi photographer," she said.



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DVD picks

Batman Begins: Limited Edition

Director: Christopher Nolan Stars: Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Katie Rating: PG

Grade: • • • • **CHRISTOPHER NOLAN'S** 2005 rethink of the Batman franchise, released in standard and Blu-ray DVDs to mark the impending arrival of The Dark Knight sequel, is as much a salvage job as a celebration of the comic book legend.

The series had run its course, having been driven into the around by Joel Schumacher's camp travesty Batman & Robin a few years earlier. Nolan returns to the story's exceedingly dark roots by way of this crackling good prequel, which springs from childhood fears and adult recriminations.

With Christian Bale smartly in place as a brooding and vengeful angel of payback, playing a billionaire playboy who turns costumed vigilante at night, Nolan restores the humanity of the piece. He dwells on motivation and character rather than piling up the action scenes, and he provides plausible and fascinating explanations for the



creation of Batman, from costume to car.

The few action scenes he does give us are good ones that are integral to the story. not just tacked on for gratuitous violence. Batman Begins has almost too many stars: Michael Caine, Liam Neeson, Morgan Freeman, Tim Roth, Katie Holmes, Tom Wilkinson and Cillian Murphy support Bale as either heroes or villains, and the temptation to showboat must have been high.

They all rise to the challenge of secondary areatness, with the exception of the dismal Holmes, who is woefully miscast as the feisty love interest (she's been replaced by Maggie Gyllenhaal for The Dark Knight, thankfully). The extras on both the limited edition gift set and the Blu-ray disc are mostly aimed at gearheads who want to know how the special effects were achieved.

There is very little in the way of examining the thought process behind the series revamp – no commentary from Nolan for example. But it does offer a peek at The Dark Knight, including the first six minutes of the film on the Blu-ray disc, and that should more than whet your appetite for another serving of Nolan's midnight

Funny Games

Director: Michael Haneke Stars: Naomi Watts, **Tim Roth** Rating: 18A Grade: @

WARNING: This is a very fine film, but it's meant as provocation, not entertainment. When Austria's Michael Haneke premiered his original German-language home invasion shocker at Cannes audience a decade ago, he observed that it was his European "reaction" to mindless American thrill-kill movies. To prove the point, he's remade Funny Games in English, with Tim Roth and Naomi Watts in the starring



roles of a well-to-do couple tormented by a psychopathic stranger (Michael Pitt) and his accomplice.

The film preys on our deepest fears of personal violation and irrational bloodletting. Haneke doesn't want to make us feel better about these things. He goes one step further and suggests we are to blame for them due to our mindless embrace of violent entertainment. We are made complicit in the terror, both in its design and its execution. Although most of the violence happens offcamera, it is of small comfort. Haneke isn't out to spoon-feed us any answers, which explains why the DVD has no extras whatsoever, apart from promos for other

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Desjanlins



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Lionsgate Entertainment has announced an innovative distribution and publishing agreement with indie label Narnack Records. Under the deal, which sources say is the first of its kind, Lionsgate will handle the physical and digital distribution of the Narnack catalogue and will administer the publishing rights to all of the label's new releases and some of its catalogue. REUTERS

entertainment 21

Former Idol contestants Young, Lewis take indie route

Arguably the biggest asset that American Idol grants is exposure. Contestants go from unknown hopefuls to household names in a matter of weeks, and with that comes pressure to remain in the spotlight by rushing to release an album after the show airs.

But for every Chris Daughtry there are several LaToya Londons and Bennetts, whose quick-turnaround post-Idol album debuts slip quietly under the radar.

This summer finds two more former contestants, Season 5's Ace Young and Season 3's Jon Peter Lewis, ready to step out with new releases.

To their benefit or detriment, it has been a couple of vears or more since their time on the show, and both opted to go the independent, rather than the major-label, route.

Young and songwriterproducer Desmond Child split the costs of making his self-titled debut, due July 15 via Pazzo Music through Fontana/Universal. Lewis hooked up with executive producer Don Grierson and will release Break the Silence July 22 via his own Cockaroo Records through Adrena-line Music Group."(Young and Lewis) took a huge

Go to metronews.ca and tell us the page you found this on trol of their records," says My Rocket Science director of dig-ital media Alicia Yaffe, who is working with both artists.

in con-

And while this allowed them creative control with little label interference, they face the challenge of getting that music heard.

After Young's run on the show, he says he separated himself from the Idol machine and declined initial offers that came his way.

Having worked with Brian McKnight prior to the show, Young wanted

to return to his R&B and urban roots and sought out Child's help. "He wrote the rock (songs) that I grew up with," he

says.
"I thought in order to show who I am musically. it would be perfect to

have Desmond bring that rock production aspect, and I'm able to bring (my) urban influences.'

Together they split the finances and wrote more than 50 songs, 11 of which made the final cut.

Young is a writer on seven of the album's tracks, The Letter, including about breaking up with a girl over fan mail, and "late-'70s with live throwback horns.'

Back to reality for Ozzy?

Intelle**Vision**



HALLO AND WELCOME

(mumble mumble) THE **OSBOURNES** GRAULAGRRRAH

SHOW ROCK AND ROOOOLLLLLLL! After basically revolutionizing reality TV, Ozzy Osbourne and his family dispersed into various TV ventures such as Project Catwalk, America's Got Talent and Jack Osbourne: Adrenaline Junkie, but they're getting back together next year for a revival of the variety show concept that attract-

nounced a month ago. According to a TV Week story, FremantleMedia North American — the people behind Idol, among many others have gotten a six-episode commitment from Fox for the show.

ed interest from all four

networks when it was an-

about how to renew the variety show concept and make it feel new for years now," Fox reality TV svengali told Variety, who added that the network hopes to launch the show with a Christmas special.

Variety speculated that the show will "blend musical perfs by the Osbournes and others with comedy sketches as

Exactly what I was hoping I'd be watching as middle-aged man when I was in my room listening to **Paranoid on** headphones when I was 13.

well as gameshow, audience participation and out-of-studio taped elements. One idea being kicked around is for a segment dubbed The Osbournes Meet the Osbournes, in which Ozzy and Co. spend time with another Osbourne clan. Another possible

supposedly involve Ozzy skewering pop culture, which was exactly what I was hoping I'd be watching on TV as a middleaged man when I was sitting in my room listening to Paranoid on headphones when I was

YOU WISH, BUDDY:

Simon Cowell, who knows that you've got to stay in the news at all costs, told ShowbizSpy.com that Paramount is interested in a movie about his life.

and that he wants Brad Pitt to play him.
"It's believable!" Cowell

said, no doubt insisting on the exclamation mark. Oddly enough, his fantasy hasn't extended so far as to knowing whether he'd do a cameo in said film.

I can't bring myself to be too hard on Cowell. If they ever make a movie about my life, I insist on being played by Tony Hawk, a troupe of Cirque De Soleil acrobats, and an F-22 Raptor jet fighter.

> Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Italian crime drama unmasks alleged gangster

FILM Gomorra, the organized-crime tale that won rave reviews at Cannes in May, is helping the Italian police track down real criminals. According to the Italian daily newspaper Corriere della Sera, the film was screened at a Naples prison where inmates in jail for activities related to the Gomorra — Naples' version of the Mafia - recognized one of their own among the film's cast. The actor, credited in the film as Giovanno Venosa, who is reported to be a wanted organized crime figure with a passion for acting, ended up as part of the no-name cast that director Matteo Garrone selected for the film. He tried out in an open audition and won a role. Police said they easily tracked him down and that he was placed in prison in the northern Italian city of Modena, near Bologna.





critics'corner—

The slicing and dicing — not to mention the sweating and swearing - come to an end with the season finale of the reality series. One last challenge will determine which of the contestants who started the show has the right stuff as determined by tart-tongued host Gordon Ramsay — to run a restaurant. 9 PM on CITY



No matter how you feel about illegal immigration and the need for more control of our borders. you'll be moved by the new documentary "The Ballad of Esequiel Hernandez." He was 18 when U.S. Marines patrolling the U.S.-Mexico border fatally shot him, thinking he was a drug runner. He was a U.S. citizen — the first to be killed by our military on U.S. soil since Kent State. Friends, relatives and the Marines on duty share their stories, 10 PM on PBS

22 entertainment



Fight Nicole Richie was reportedly removed from Las Vegas' Hard Rock Hotel and Casino on the weekend after fighting with a fellow reveller while waiting in line for the valet outside the hotel following a night of rowdy partying. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Kidman, Urban have baby girl

BIRTH Nicole Kidman and her husband, Keith Urban, have welcomed their first child together, a daughter named Sunday Rose Kidman Urban, born yesterday morning in Nashville, People.com reports. "Husband Keith was

by Nicole's side, and mother and baby are very well," said spokesman Paul Freundlich, who added the couple were "delighted" to make the announcement. He also said the baby girl weighed 6 lbs., 7.5 oz.

The pregnancy was first announced in Januhas two other children with her former husband Tom Cruise: Isabella, 15, and Connor, 13. In the days leading up to the birth, the couple - who celebrated their second wedding anniversary on June 25 didn't stray from their normal routine in and around Nashville, where they reside in a gated community.

From early morning stops at a local Starbucks for warm drinks to a little sweat at the gvm later in the day (Kidman was a regular at spin and yoga classes during her pregnancy), the couple



Streep slams male stars for having plastic surgery

stars who have plastic surgery in a bid to retain their vouthful looks

insisting they should give up and "embrace getting older," imbd.com reports. The 59-year-old claims she has al-

ways resisted the temptation to go under the knife, but is worried about the growing number of actors who are looking to surgeons for a helping hand

with their appearance. She says, "You'd be amazed how many men in the industry have gone down that road. I don't get it. I think you have to embrace getting older and celebrate life.'

Streep insists she is actually more secure in her work now that she is no longer considered a Hollywood beauty. metro news services

Thurman learns never sav never MARRIAGE Uma Thurman is learning never say never. After her two divorces from Gary Oldman and Ethan Hawke, the Kill Bill star swore she'd never

celebrity brief

marry again, people.com reports. In her first interview since her engagement to multimillionaire Arpad "Arki" Bus-

son was announced. Thurman tells the U.K.'s Sunday Times Style magazine she's happy

to go back on her word. "I'm going to have to retract my statement of never. I'll have to eat my words." METRO NEWS



Carrey tries on girlfriend's suit

BEACH WEAR Jim Carrey stunned beach-goers in California by wearing his girlfriend Jenny McCarthy's bathing suit while celebrating the 4th of July holiday, imdb.com reports. The couple was photographed strolling along a beach in Malibu with the former Playmate wearing a plunging black swimsuit. But moments later, the 45-year-old fun-



Alba wants to be laid-back mom

PARENTING New mom Jessica Alba, who gave birth to her first child last month, is considering how she and husband Cash Warren will influence their daughter, people.com reports. "Kids' personalities have so much to do with the parents," she told Britain's Sunday Express. "If you're very paranoid and uptight ... they are going to take on that anxiety. If you're a little more laid-back ... you'll probably have an easier time with them. I guess I'll find out.'

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Cohen back to prankster movies

FILM Sacha Baron Cohen claimed his first victim for his new prankster movie - setting up an Israeli analyst, Yossi Alpher, for an outrageous interview on the Middle East conflict. imdb.com reports. Cohen lured the public into appearing in his hit 2006 **Borat: Cultural Learnings** Of America For Make Benefit Glorious Nation Of Kazakhstan. His new film will feature Bruno, an Austrian fashion journalist.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Rodriguez's wife

files for divorce SPLITTING UP The estranged wife of all-world Yankee star Alex Rodriguez filed for divorce Monday in Miami, seeking to dissolve their fiveand-a-half-year union, people.com reports. "The marriage of the parties is irretrievably broken because of the husband's extramarital affairs and other marital misconduct," Cynthia Rodriguez's

While citing numerous alleged infidelities committed by the baseball superstar, Cynthia did not specifically mention Madonna in court papers after a week of media reports suggesting the Queen of Pop and Rodriguez may have carried on an illicit affair. METRO NEWS

his wife and children."

nvman shocked onlookers when he reappeared donning the racy swimsuit. NEWS

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had

petition reads,

adding that

the slugger

abandoned

emotionally

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entertainment 23

A note from a piece by a U.S. composer is to be played this weekend in a German town in what has been called the world's slowest and longest concert. The performance began in 2000 and is scheduled to last a total of 639 years. BBC NEWS ONLINE



Take Five

32 Maroon

34 French article

36 Old French coin

37 Take attendance

41Opera's Beverly 42Poor

43 Monument Valley sight

35 Pig's place

40 Bewildered

Crossword across

1 Vatican leader

5 Vent cover

10 Zodiac ram

12 Indv entrant

13 Be in control

16 Floor cover

17 Comic Bernie

18 Deli sandwich

23 Razor sharpener

31 Hockey's Bobby and

20 Circus sight

22 Hill insects

25 Horn sound

28 Put forth

family

21 Velocity

15 Summer in France

Crossword down

- 1 Indiana player
- 2 Makes speeches
- 3 Accumulate
- 4 Long fish
- 5 Golfer Norman 6 Scoundrel
- 7 Shrewdness
- 8 Lease signer
- 9 Puts up
- 11 Block side
- 14 Centenarian's birthday

950,000

Metro readers do it daily!

metr⊕

Do it daily.

This day in history

in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

to the United Kingdom.

in Roswell, New Mexico.

- 19 Outdoes
- 20 Uses a VCR
 - 24 Some daisies
 - 25 Big-billed bird
 - 26 Fancy
 - 27 Threat words 29 Fix shoes

 - 30 Fishes with a line

previous day's answer

- 33 Oklahoma city
- 35 Remain
- 38 Was ahead 39 Edge

A mysterious ailment disap-

pears when your love life improves. You'll see eye-to-eye with a practical person, Keep things in line at home.

GFMINI

MΔV 22-IIINF 21

Three people will visit and have an effect. Taking it easy will be difficult. Useless reminders need to be disre-

Younger people are causing frustration. A down-to-earth project will get the go-ahead. An adversary tries to climb to the top.

JULY 23-AUG 23

A romantic woman loathes company. A misunderstanding works in your favour. An associate finally makes good on a promise.

Horoscopes

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20

(8)

(II)

Sarcasm from a stranger will be surprising. Something hidden is brought into the light. Take your diet into account if you're unwell.

TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21

garded.

CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22

LEO

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22

A buddy is excited by odd behaviour. An honest man will meet with decision-makers. Maintain silence about travel arrangements

AVATAR VENUS

LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23

You must accept an anxietyproducing challenge. An emotional block causes a delay in plans. A message puts you on "Romance Alert."

SCORPIO

OCT 24- NOV 22

A skin condition will clear up on its own. Emotions will run wild if anyone is given free rein. A blonde wants more money.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23- DEC 21

The focus is on being emotionally fulfilled. Don't be selfish but insist on getting respect. A hunch can create havoc.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20

A phone call has serious consequences. You can refuse to be frightened. Consideration will come your way later on.

(Y_o)

AQUARIUS

A depressing weight gain starts to dissolve. You can aid in reducing somebody's misery. A sincere compliment reveals too much.

PISCES

(m)

FEB 19-MAR 20

Avoid wearing someone down with complaints. The winds of change will distress someone. A friend's indifference is resented.

previous day's answer

8 5 2

4 7 3 2 8 1

3 4 6 1 7 9

5 2

4 7 8 1 2 9 5 6 3

2 3 1 8 6 5 7 9 4

6 1 7 5 9 2 3 4 8

1 8 5 9 3 7 4 2 6 7 2 3 6 8 4 9 1 5

9 4 6 2 5 1 8 3 7

3 9 4 7 1 8 6

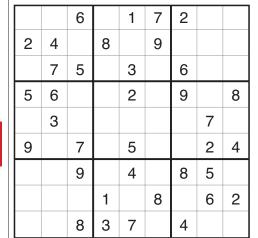
One of these words doesn't belong with the others based on structure Which word is the odd one out? quarantine agreess. queue equale obsequiens

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JULY 8, 1776: The Declaration of Independence was read aloud

JULY 8, 1822: Chippewas turn over huge tract of land in Ontario

JULY 8, 1892: St. John's, Newfoundland was devastated in the

IULY 8, 1947; Reports are broadcast that a UFO has crash landed

Sudoku

NSTRUCTIONS:

The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

sol	.VE	TI	ΜE	IN	MIN	IU1	ES:

Under 13 Geniu
13-17 Schola
17-21 Sma

21-25..... Not bad 25+ Keep practicing

Calgary weather

Afternoon

Partly cloudy. 22

Tonight



Partly cloudy. Low 11

Wednesday



Variable. 22°/10°



Partly cloudy. 21°/8°





14° / 6°

Temperature Normals High: 23.3° Low: 8.8°

Records High: 31.7°/1886 Low: 2.8°/1974

Sunrise: 5:31 a.m. Sunset: 9:50 p.m. Moonset: 12:01 a.m. Moonrise: 12:44 p.m

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